

## Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 SAB-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CU-02 NIC-01 EA-06

EUR-12 PM-03 AID-05 /087 W  
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R 212142Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2601

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT, PFOR, CO

SUBJ: THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE PROSPECT OF "SEMANA SANTA" A FAVORED TIME FOR VACATIONS AND TRAVEL IN COLOMBIA PRECLUDED INTENSIVE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST WEEK; COLOMBIAN OPINION LEADERS, HOWEVER CONSIDERED THEM ONLY BRIEFLY AND WENT ABOUT THEIR PLANNING FOR THE EASTER VACATION. FAVORED SPOTS INCLUDE THE CARIBBEAN COAST RESORTS, ALL SOLIDLY BOOKED AND FOR THE MORE TRADITIONALLY-MINDED, OPPAYAN, WHERE RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS EVOKE A COLOMBIA OF AN EARLIER ERA. AMONG THE PUBLIC EVENTS NOTED WERE THE BRIEF BUT WELL RECEIVED VISIT OF ASST SECY ROGERS, THE IMMINENT TRAVEL OF PRES LOPEZ TO THE PANAMA MEETING AND THE INSTALLATION OF "DESIGNADO" JULIO CESAR TURBAY AS PRES OF THE REPUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD OF PRES LOPEZ' ABSENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ASST SECY ROGERS' BRIEF VISIT TO BOGOTA OCCASIONED A NUMBER OF THOUGHTFUL EDITORIALS IN THE BOGOTA PRESS. INFLUENTIAL EL ESPECTADOR CITED THE ASST SECY'S VISIT AS A STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW POLICY OF HEMISPHERIC INTERDEPENDENCE. OTHER  
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MAJOR BOGOTA DAILIES CARRIED SIMILARLY CONSTRUCTIVE CMMMENTS

ON THE VISIT.

3. PRES LOPEZ LEFT THE CAPITAL ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAR 21. AFTER A SHORT STAY IN MEDELLIN HE WILL TRAVEL TOPANAMA ON SAT MORNING TO MEET WITH THE PRES OF COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA, AND PANAMA. GOC OFFICIALS WHILE SOMEWHAT VAGUE ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GATHERING, HAVE TOLD EMB OFFICERS THAT PRES LOPEZ DID NOT EXPECT TO TAKE PART IN ANY STRONG STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE ONGOING US-PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, THOUGH HE WILL SEEK PANAMANIAN RECOGNITION OF COLOMBIAN TRANSIT RIGHTS NOW GUARANTEED BY TREATY WITH US.

4. ECLA MTG. PRES LOPEZ CLOSED THE ECLA EXPERTS MEETING IN BOGOTA WITH A SPEECH SUPPORTING INTEGRATION EFFORTS IN ALL SPHERES. HE CALLED FOR SUBSTITUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN DC'S AND LDC'S FOR THE PREVAILING IDEA OF ONE WAY DEPENDENCE. LATIN AMERICA, HE SAID IS MATURE ENOUGH TO EMANCIPATE ITSELF BY CREATING ITS OWN MULTINATIONAL OCEAN AND AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES, AND A PAYMENTS MECHANISM THAT WOULD NOT HAVE TO USE NON-LATIN CURRENCIES FOR A STANDARD. CONCERNING THE GSP PROVISIONS OF THE US TRADE ACT, HE CHIDED THE OTHER LATINS FOR COMPLAINING THAT GSP IS NOT MORE BROADLY AVAILABLE, WHEN NOT LONG AGO THEY CRITICIZED COLOMBIA'S SUPPORT FOR PREFERENCES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WOULD MERELY CONTRIBUTE TO LA DEPENDENCE ON THE US. THE PRES ADDED THAT HE IS CONCERNED THAT THE GSP PROVISIONS WILL TEND TO DISCOURAGE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT DOCUMENT THE BASIS OF HIS CONCERN.

5. LA UNIVERSITIES DEMONSTRATION ON CHILE. ON MARCH 15 AND 16 THREE HUNDRED DELS REPRESENTING FIFTY UNIVS FROM TWENTY LA COUNTRIES MET IN BOGOTA TO DECLARE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNIV OF CHILE AND TO DENOUNCE THE PINOCHET GOVT. OTHER ATTENDANTS OF NOTE WERE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMB TO CUBA, A REP OF THE PRG, THE RECTOR OF THE UNIV OF HAVANA AND LUIS CARLOS PEREZ, MARXIST RECTOR OF COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL UNIV. THE MTG WAS INITIATED BY THE INCCA UNIV OF BOGOTA AND SPONSORED BY A NUMBER OF LA AND WORLD-WIDE LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST ORGS. THE FORUM WAS UTILIZED FOR FAMILIAR LEFTIST RHETORIC ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES INCLUDING NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. LOCAL PRESS GENERALLY GAVE THE MTG STRAIGHT COVERAGE. EL TIEMPO, HOWEVER ADDED AN INTERVIEW WITH A FORMER CHILEAN STUDENT  
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ATTENDING THE MTG WHO TOLD OF WIDE SPREAD KILLING OF UNIV STUDENTS BY THE PINOCHET GOVT. REPS FROM THE CENTRAL UNIV OF VENEZUELA OFFERED THEIR FACILITIES FOR NEXT YEAR'S "LATIN AMERICAN ANTI-FASCIST MEETING OF SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE." VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, CO  
**To:** STATE  
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